



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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## **BYRON PERKINS' GIRLFRIEND PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSISTING ESCAPE**

*– Admits fleeing to Mexico with boyfriend*

LOUISVILLE, KY - Lea Ann Howard, age 36, formerly of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in Mercer County, pled guilty to assisting escape, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

Howard admitted that on January 24, 2006, she assisted her boyfriend, Byron Perkins in escaping from the custody of the Oldham County Jail. Perkins had been temporarily released from custody in order to undergo medical testing to determine whether he could donate a kidney to his son. Instead of completing the testing, Perkins and Howard fled to Mexico where they were both apprehended 15 months later.

The maximum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Bonar, and it was investigated by the United States Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The plea was entered before Thomas Russell, Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Howard is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Russell on August 18, 2008, at 12:00 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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